

## MAIL ORDER GRAFTER NO LONGER MERRY

Postoffice Department Making Life Miserable for Nimble-Witted Fellow Who Would Use Mails to Catch "Suckers," But in Spite of Eternal Vigilance on the Part of Inspectors Fakers Occasionally Get By.

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LIKE the flies of the field, the mail order grafter toils not, neither does he spin. However, it doesn't follow that he is living easy. Quite the contrary, says the Detroit Free Press. These are troublous times for the nimble-witted gentry who seek to employ the mails as a medium through which to make guileful mortals part company with their money, and the strenuousness is becoming more marked each day.

Aroused to a sense of its duty in this direction, the government, through the Post Office Department, is engaged in the wholly commendable work of protecting the people against themselves and suppressing those thrifty individuals who would fatten off them. There is an astonishingly large number of men and women in all walks of life who need to be protected, too. Those who have made fortunes through questionable deals of this kind tell you so in strict confidence, and will assure you that their victims came from no particular class, but represented all walks in life. A "bargain," fraudulent or otherwise, if properly presented, makes as strong an appeal to the educated man of affairs as it does to the one in humble circumstances, and guile of means is as keen in the pursuit of something for nothing as her less fortunate sister.

The glittering inducements that once confronted the unsuspecting on every hand are not so much in evidence, however. Time and the Post Office Department, chiefly the latter, have worked changes, and the mail order business has been reduced to a point where it is decidedly prosaic. That is, it would be were it not for the attempts of an army of fly-by-nights to get past the watchful inspectors. This class serves to enliven the situation, and eliminates the possibility of those entrusted with the task of suppressing concerns of doubtful merit suffering from ennui.

### The Old-Timers.

Not so many years ago any sort of an advertisement, however apparent the intent to defraud, was permitted to appear in magazines devoted to the mail order business and any other publications proprietors of the business saw fit to use. Everybody who knows anything about the game has heard of the dodge worked as long ago as during the civil war by an enterprising man who was reputed to have made himself rich thereby. Selecting the period when military service had been made compulsory, he inserted an advertisement in newspapers in various parts of the country stating that for \$1, sent to him, he would tell the writer how to escape the draft. He was literally swamped beneath a shower of \$1 bills from these anxious to know how this most vexatious problem could be settled. In due season they each received an envelope in which was inclosed the answer, the single word, "Enlist," being printed on a slip of paper. It was a certain way to avoid being drafted, but the advice wasn't followed in every instance.

Later came the men who for a like sum agreed to furnish you with a positive exterminator of bedbugs, roaches and similar household pests, together with full instructions regarding its use. Again the dollars poured in, and as fast as the mails could carry the reply back there went forth mysterious-looking little boxes. Opening one of these, the recipient found himself in possession of two flat pieces of wood, each possibly three inches long and two inches wide, whose actual value was but a fraction of a cent. Accompanying these were the "instructions," reading something like this: "Catch the bug, place him carefully on the upper side of the lower block, then put the lower side of the upper block on him and press tightly until he is dead."

The methods of these early operators may have been crude, but they managed to get away with them, and what is more, came nearer fulfilling their promises than many of their successors. Another game worked extensively was by means of a cleverly worded advertisement announcing a special sale of sample silks, twelve different pieces being sent for 25 cents. It was expressly stated that only one order would be filled for any one person, and that the time in which these beautiful samples could be secured for such an unheard-of price was limited, as was the supply. Responses came from everywhere, and the jingle of 25-cent pieces drowned even the

### STABS SHERIFF ON SCAFFOLD.

Refugi Jureque, sentenced to death for attacking Alvina Olenik, aged 15, a Bohemian girl, at Sutherland Springs last July, stabbed and fatally wounded Sheriff Wright at Floresville, Texas, when the sheriff started to fix the noose on Jureque to hang him. He plunged a sharp spoon handle in his executor just above the heart and attempted to escape. Jureque was



seized by a deputy sheriff, dragged back to the scaffold and unceremoniously hanged without a black cap. It is not known how he secured the sharpened spoon handle.

### TO ENCOURAGE YOUR HUSBAND.

Do not fail to tell him now and then that he has been hard up for money ever since you were married. Ask him, every little while, "Why is it we never have anything like other people; never go anywhere?" Do not forget to remind your husband often that your children do not dress as other children do; that the girls should take music lessons from the best teachers, and that they should have a first-class piano and other things to correspond.

## THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND MUSICAL CULTURE



regular attendance in the public schools. If they can be imbued with a love of good music and good pictures, our next generation will be a generation of art-loving people. He points out further that the stereopticon, the mechanical piano player and the talking machine bring to our very door the masterpieces of painting and music and the interpretations of the greatest musicians.

"With the three appliances named above in each high school in the country, we would have the center from which to attract the pupils of the lower grades to come and hear and see," Mr. Edison continues. "We would come in direct competition with the nickelodeon and the cheap theater, but with good stuff instead of poor, and given at cost, as we now give our things in the schools."

"The National and State governments are doing everything in their power to raise better horses, cattle, pigs, chickens, grain, fruit and farm produce of all kinds through the Secretary of Agriculture at Washington; the Secretary of Commerce does everything in his power to foster business in every way possible. The States send trains over the country teaching everything but love of the beautiful and then wonder why the people

### WOMEN AND HOME.

To clean enamel rub with salt moistened with vinegar. For cleansing of cloth milk can be used to good advantage. In washing glasses use a little soap first and then rinse well. When baking place a layer of salt under the mold. This prevents burning. Hop pillows are a great comfort to nervous people and often cure headache.

of this glorious land of ours are not more artistic. Are good people a less valuable community than clean hogs? "We are proud of all of our successes but artistic, and it is time that we realize that we can do these things here as well as they do them abroad by using the same means. Art is world-wide and universal, and we of this country will have an art worth while when we demand it and support it the same as it is supported abroad."

"Our American singers are filling the European opera houses and our American students are going to Europe to study with American teachers. There is more chance to hear music in Europe, but a student can assimilate only so much at a time, and no matter what you hear, it is what you grasp and comprehend of it that counts, not how much you have listened to."

"Let us buy our art as we do other commodities and then we will get results. Opera in English is the thing to work for. Recitals in English the second and last, but not least, first-class music in the schools every day as the most essential thing of all, for from the schools will come our future audiences of lovers of art."

"Many of the Middle Western States are not negligent of their opportunities in the matter of giving their public school children some knowledge of music. In Dayton, O., it was my privilege recently to lecture before the 400 teachers of the public schools on the music dramas of Richard Wagner. In Richmond, Ind., similar work is being carried on. In both these cities this kind of study is not limited to the advanced classes; the work of the primary grades is made tributary and preparatory to it. Doubtless this intelligent and artistic consideration of music in the public schools of Indiana and Ohio has a very close relation to the very decided advance which those States show in point of musical culture."

### WESTON'S GREAT WALK.

The Wonder is that He Should Have Finished His Trip at All. That Edward Payson Weston should have walked in his attempt to walk across the continent in 100 days is not so surprising as the fact that he should ever have attempted the feat. It is one that many a younger and more vigorous athlete would have hesitated at, and yet this man of 70 years sets out undaunted, in the bleakest and rawest of weather, to accomplish something that would test the metal of the hardest. And he failed by only the merest margin. If he did not accomplish his self-appointed task, that which he did accomplish will long stand as the record of what a man of his years can do.

Writing of his trip across the continent, Mr. Weston said: "I walked a distance of 4,000 miles in 104 days and 5 hours, and while it exceeds the distance between New York and San Francisco nearly 100 miles, and far exceeds any previous record, yet technically it is a failure, and I do not feel inclined to close my public career with a failure."

That the performance was technically a failure does not make it any the less remarkable. Let any young man try Weston's average rate of speed for a few days over good roads in good weather and he will catch the point.



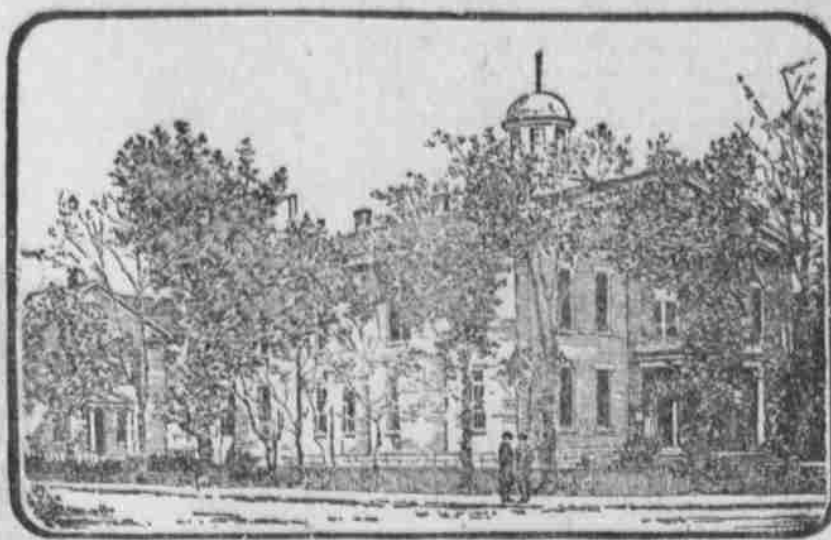
EDWARD PAYSON WESTON.

The endurance test was a very severe one. There was a great distance to be covered as near as possible within the set time; there were storms and head winds; there were mountains and deserts to be crossed; there was excessive heat to be borne, and for many hundreds of miles the walking was done of necessity on railroad tracks. The feat required unusual physical strength and very exceptional will power, for it is obvious that the walker on such an excursion must keep to his work despite all discouragements or fall hopelessly behind.

Of course the public cannot be expected to become wholly absorbed in such enterprises, and apparently there has been less of a sensation over the long jaunt than there was over Weston's walk from Portland to Chicago in 1887 or his repetition of the performance forty years later.

## THE NEW DIVORCE CENTER

Reno, Nevada, Inherits the Sioux Falls Industry and Gains a Million a Year Estimated Revenue.



THE CAPITOL AT RENO, NEV.

THE population and social life of Reno, Nev., are undergoing a great change, writes a correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger. Where a year or so ago the optimistic mining promoter, in his corduroy or khaki and his high russet shoes, was wont to disport himself, to-day may be seen men of the East flashing by in high-powered automobiles. Where Washoe squaws would a year ago sit and play cards at the corners of the public squares may be seen to-day handsome women in Paris gowns, sauntering in the afternoon sun. On the veranda of the leading hotel, where a year ago were the silence and desolation that the panic of 1907 produced, idly sit and fight with equal groups of men and women, who look forward, in mental vision, to the time when they will be able to forsake this frontier post of civilization and whirl an eager flight back to their homes in the East. But they are looking for divorces at present, and so they must stay here for at least six months from date of arrival to satisfy the requirements of the Nevada divorce law with regard to residence.

The charms of Nevada as a divorce center have only just begun to percolate into the consciousness of the outside world. Reno has no objection to the present status of affairs. It is estimated that the revenue of the town from the divorce colony at present is close to \$1,000,000 a year, and that it will rapidly increase from this on. To a community of but 18,000 population this is no small consideration.

Biased somewhat by the financial seductions of the situation, and yet to learn the lesson that such a state of affairs can only result in the moral degradation of the youth of the community—a lesson which caused South Dakota to reform her divorce laws—Reno appears to be perfectly contented with things as they are.

But Nevada is busily engaged in cleaning house, and it is felt by the most reflective observers that the divorce laws of Nevada as now written will be a thing of the past in the near future. Not in the very near future—for the next Legislature does not meet until January of 1911. There are others who point to the experience of South Dakota, which for twenty years fought the evils of lax divorce laws before a repeal was secured, and say that the moralists of Nevada have an equally stubborn task before them. But Nevada is cleaning house. In the last session of the Legislature, after gambling being permitted for forty years with cognizance of law, a bill abolishing gambling was passed—the act to take effect in November of 1910—and it is believed that if that could be done, the slack divorce laws can be more easily repealed.

### SHACKLETON AND COMPANIONS AT THE "FARTHEST SOUTH."



HOISTING OF THE UNION JACK BY SHACKLETON AND PARTY.

Lieut. Shackleton, the British explorer, who recently returned to England after having reached a point nearer the south pole than ever was attained before, planted at that point a flag given him for the purpose by Queen Alexandra.

### LIONS TERRORIZE A CROWD.

Two full grown lions, running through the streets of St. Charles, Mo., scattered a carnival crowd in terror and emptied the big car shops when they were driven to bay in the shop yards. Showmen captured the lions an hour after their escape, and after one of them had fatally bitten a pony and the other attacked an elephant. More than 2,000 women and children were on the streets. Suddenly there was a cry: "The lions." Men, women and children turned and fled, none stopping long enough to see that the lions were not coming toward them, but had taken the other direction. In five minutes the streets were deserted. In the shop yards came a long com-



bat of wits with the lions, and the showmen had it all to themselves. The men finally succeeded in catching the lions with lassoes and bound their legs. The animals were then placed in a portable cage.

### WITH THE SAGES.

The behavior of love is courtesy.—Griggs. Adversity is the touchstone of true virtue.—Delany. Delay not to do difficult but necessary deeds.—Euripides. Life is too short for its possessors to wear long faces.—Farrar. Pleasure is, after all, only a by-product of effort.—Runciman. We often do more good by our sympathy than our labor.—Farrar.

### NEARLY CRUCIFIXES SELF.



Hanging from the interior wall of the new Hotel at Alton by a nail accidentally driven through his hand, Rolla Perkins, a carpenter, for a few moments nearly was crucified, suffering excruciating pain until relieved by fellow workmen. Perkins was on a ladder nailing scantling with four-inch wire nails. As he struck a powerful blow at a nail he was holding in his left hand the nail slipped and was driven through the palm of his hand into the scantling. At the same instant the ladder upon which he was standing careened from under his feet and left him hanging. Perkins' cries attracted four other workmen in the building. As he moved his body in agony the nail pulled free from the scantling and he fell to the floor at his friends entered the room.

Liverpool shipping returns for 1901, though covering the entrance of 3,355 vessels of 8,127,419 tons, do not list a single American ship, unless maybe some little odd one is included in "other foreign nationalities," four vessels aggregating 6,314 tons.

The first memorial to be prepared for a place in the new Memorial building at the University of Michigan will be a bronze bas-relief of President Angell, to be presented to the university by Regent Arthur Hill, of Saginaw.

### TO AVOID DROWNING.

What to Do if You Fall in Water and Cannot Swim. There are chronicled every summer a long list of fatal drowning accidents which plunge thousands into mourning, and the pity of it is that a little knowledge of watermanship and ordinary care might have prevented most of them. To ignorance or carelessness in entering and leaving a boat or while in it; to venturing in open water unprepared, and to neglect of the rudimentary principles of watermanship can be traced half the recorded fatalities.

No one should ever take out rowing persons who do not know how to swim without first ascertaining that the boat is safe and seaworthy and provided with the necessary paraphernalia for eventualities. It is when one least expects it that accidents occur, writes L. de B. Handley in the special vacation number of Recreation, and the only way to avoid them is to be prepared at all times. A stout bowline, enough life preservers to go around, an anchor, something to bale with and an extra pair of oars should be carried on principle. You may not need them ninety-nine times out of a hundred, but on that hundredth time they may mean life or death.

In getting into a boat one should try to step right into the bottom over the keel, or if this is too great a reach, on to the middle of the seat and then down. Stepping on the gunwale has been responsible for numberless capelings and it is a good idea when inexperienced people are embarking to take hold of the boat and steady it. Enter if possible where you intend to sit and in such a manner that you will not have to turn afterwards.

The weight should be distributed as evenly as possible, in a small boat, with slight preference to the stern. If the bow is buried the least head-swell will flood the boat and if the stern is too deep a following sea may swamp it. In making a landing one should approach at an angle, shipping the inward oar a few yards away and rounding up by backing with the outward oar. It is dangerous to stretch out over the gunwale to reach for float or pier. In landing the person in the bow should be first, taking the bow-line with him and steadying the boat for the others.

I will not insult the intelligence of the reader by advising against rocking the boat or indulging in like idiotic skylarking. One must be decidedly lacking in gray matter to choose such pastimes. There are certain rules about one's behavior in a small craft, however, which should be kept constantly in mind. For instance, should it be necessary for two people to change places they should keep well over the keel until ready to pass each other and then standing face to face move to either side simultaneously that the boat may not lose its balance. Also, whether in picking up anything from the water or in helping a swimmer it is advisable to use the stern and not the side.

When a boat is capsized do not try to climb into it again. It will sustain you easily if you just lean on it, as will any fair-sized piece of wreckage like an oar, a spar, or a board, but attempt to climb over them and they will surely sink with you. And speaking about this, when you are being helped or towed do not hang onto your rescuer or boat with bent arms, as this draws the body up and offers great resistance. Outstretched arms will increase your chances of getting ashore.

### Wit of the Youngsters

Teacher—Harry, what did you make a face at me for? Harry—Please, ma'am, because I didn't know you were lookin'.

Helen—Tommy, why doesn't the sea run over if all the big rivers flow into it? Tommy—'Cause the sea is full of sponges, that's why.

Sunday School Superintendent—Elsie, can you tell me anything about the epistles? Little Elsie—I guess they were the wives of the apostles.

"Why, Ethel, what's the matter?" asked her mother, as the little one almost choked at the dinner table. "I got a piece of bread head first down my rough pipe," explained Ethel.

Sunday School Teacher—What do we learn from the story of the man who was told to take up his bed and walk? Small Sammie—We learn that they had folding beds in ancient times.

### Plan for Open Fireplace.

"If people would only learn to have open fires in their rooms, instead of converting them into hot-air boxes by means of furnaces, there would be fewer colds," said a physician. "Fireplaces and their chimneys are ventilators. To me the beauty of an open fire makes it worth having, but when you consider that it's a sanitary officer, constantly changing the air and driving out germs, it is hard to see how any one can prefer a furnace."

### New Spring at Carlsbad.

Another hot spring was recently added to the nineteen which Carlsbad had for years enjoyed. Workmen were engaged in clearing out the channels of the "Muhlbrenn" suddenly broke into a new spring of hot mineral water twenty-two feet below the surface of the ground.

### His Dilemma.

"I'm in a difficulty over my girl." "What's wrong?" "I've been saying such nice things to her that she's getting conceited. If I stop she'll think I don't care for her any longer, and if I go on she'll think she's too good for me."—London Mail.

### Canine Fashion Note.

Spaniel—Going to have your hair cut to look like a lion this summer? Newfoundland—Not much. Some of these Teddy imitators might take me for easy game.—Kansas City Times.

We are all happier for a lot of things we don't see.